



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

JUNE EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Barbara Harrison visits Seat Pleasant</i>	1
<i>Council President's Message</i>	2
<i>New Cell Phone Laws Go Into Effect</i>	3
<i>Christmas in April</i>	7

City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator/ Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

LOCAL ANCHORWOMAN VISITS SEAT PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



On Wednesday, June 2, 2010 local news Channel 4 Anchorwoman Barbara Harrison visited the Seat Pleasant Elementary School. Ms. Harrison was prompted to visit the school after a request made to her by Mayor Eugene W. Grant.

The children gave her a hearty welcome as she entered the auditorium and recited the school motto.

She talked to them about her profession, and then asked what their aspirations were. After which, she met with the 5th & 6th grade young ladies in the school's media center. She toured the school learning of their activities and accomplishments. The children then presented her with several small gifts of appreciation.



Ms. Harrison is well known for her work with children through her past and present Channel 4 segments "Beautiful Babies Right From the Start" and "Wednesday's Child." Ms. Harrison stated she was overwhelmed by the children's response to her visit as well as by the hospitality given to her by School Principal Cassandra Lassiter and her staff and Mayor Eugene Grant and his staff.

CITY HOSTS ANNUAL SEAT PLEASANT DAY

On Saturday, May,1, the City held its Annual Seat Pleasant Day. The day began with an opening ceremony at City Hall at 9:30 a.m., followed by a parade led by the Charles H. Flowers Marching Band, Fairmont Heights Jr ROTC and Seat Pleasant elected officials. Activities were held in the park from 12 noon to 5 p.m. There were vendors and activities for the whole family. The University of Maryland held a health fair which included health screenings and the Governor's Wellmobile. There was face painting, a moon bounce, a skate-mobile, a puppet show and a new addition, pony rides for the children. The pony rides were a big hit with attendees. There was bingo for senior citizens and others who wanted to join in, with prizes for the winners.

(continued on the next page)

The annual basketball tournament also took place with trophies awarded to the winning teams for different age categories. The event was well attended and warm weather helped to make Seat Pleasant Day a memorable occasion for all.

The Mayor, Council and staff would like to thank all who contributed to the success of the event and participated in the festivities.



Pony rides were a big hit with attendees.

GREETINGS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Hello Seat Pleasant!

I have great news! We have been awarded a Bond Bill funding from both the Senate and the House for the renovation of the John E. Feggans Center. We were awarded \$150,000 from the Senate and \$55,000 from the House of Delegates, for a grand total of \$205,000. Be sure to thank your elected officials on the state level for their hard work and dedication.

Remember to be safe. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Public Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 301-336-2600.

Greetings,

Sincerely,

LaTasha C. Gatling

Council President

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"



**WARD II MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010
WITH COUNCIL MEMBER
ARETHA STEPHENSON**

**AT THE
SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER
5720 ADDISON ROAD
SEAT PLEASANT, MARYLAND
2:00 - 4:30 P.M.**



ARE YOU ADEQUATELY COVERED UNDER YOUR SAVING AND INSURANCE PLAN??

By Robert Ashton

Saving

Many people don't have adequate savings. In 2004 according to a survey conducted by the staff of the Federal Reserve Board only 40.8 percent of Americans said they have any savings, and only 34.7 percent said they were saving for retirement, not the loss of a wage earner¹.

Insurance

Every 10 minutes, 441 people suffer a disabling injury. According to the Social Security Administration Statistical Supplement 2005 draft, the average monthly benefit for disabled workers in December 2004 was \$1002 for men and \$765 for women.

If you're like the rest of us, you probably don't have much cushion for the unexpected. What if you got hurt off-the-job would you be covered?

Solution

For directions in obtaining answers to questions like these and more contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer at 301/336-2600 extension 2236.

Statistics from the 2001 and 2004 Survey of Consumer Finances, Federal reserve Bulletin, Jan 2006;
Injury facts from 2005-2006 Edition, National Safety Council.

A WORD FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEW CELL PHONE LAW TO GO INTO EFFECT

Maryland Senate Bill 321 has been signed into law by Governor O'Malley.

The new law will prohibit all Maryland drivers from using a cell phone without a hand free device while operating a motor vehicle. In addition the new law would prohibit "a holder of a learner's instructional permit or provisional driver's license who is 18 years of age or older from driving a motor vehicle while using a handheld telephone". The fine for a first offense would be \$40 and subsequent offenses would be \$100.

The new law would be a secondary offense, meaning that a driver must first be committing a primary offense such as speeding or reckless driving before they could be ticketed for a Cell Phone offense. The new law is scheduled to go into effect October 2010.

Other 2010 legislation included:

Maryland House Bill 236 : which prohibits a person from driving in an inattentive manner resulting
(continued on the next page)

(NEW CELL PHONE LAW GOES INTO EFFECT CON'T.)

in the unsafe operation of the motor vehicle when the inattention is caused by the person engaging in specified preoccupying activities, provides that a violation of the Act is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points, authorizes a police officer to enforce the Act only as a secondary offense.

Other cell phone legislation includes:

Maryland's House Bill 72 and Senate Bill 98 prohibits an individual from writing or sending a text message while operating a motor vehicle or in the travel portion of the roadway. If you are convicted of a misdemeanor of the new and text messaging law you will receive a fine of \$500. The new law does not apply to emergency situations (texting 9-1-1) or global positioning systems.

Cell Phone Laws regarding minors:

Maryland has a cell phone law that was first enacted in May 2005. The cell phone legislation known as Senate Bill 50, prohibits drivers under the age of 18 from using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle. This includes drivers with a permit and drivers using a provisional drivers license. There are not allowances for hands free devices under the bill. This cell phone law is only enforceable as a secondary offense. This means the driver must be pulled over for another primary violation such as speeding or running a red light to be ticketed for the cell-phone violation. Like many cell-phone laws across the United States, there are exceptions for emergency situations.



FROM THE OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

Required Permits and Licenses

The following permits and licenses are issued by the Code Enforcement Department:

Building Permits

The owner or an authorized agent shall obtain a permit to erect, construct, enlarge, alter, move, improve, demolish, or raze any building or structure. The permit from the City lasts 6 months. Owners are also required to obtain necessary permits from the County.

Business Licenses

Business licenses are required for every business in the City and an Use and Occupancy permit is required from the County. There is an annual fee from the City.

Rental Permits

Any owner who rents his/her home must obtain a rental permit from the City and an Use and Occupancy permit from the County. There is also an annual fee that must be paid to the City.

For more information contact the Office of Code Enforcement at 301-499-8700.

A WORD FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The City will soon have a new pavilion in Goodwin Park. The new pavilion is compliments of funding from the Department of Natural Resources Community Parks and Playground Program grant. Renovations have begun and are expected to be completed by the end of June.

Grants are awarded every year for improvements to local parks and open spaces. Previous funding has been used to pave the basketball court, the tennis court and several paths within the park. The pavilion will be a welcome and needed addition to the park. It will become the focal point of the park and is sure to enhance the appeal of the park. The City will continue to pursue funding to make further renovations to the park.



LIVING WELL PROGRAM COMING TO SEAT PLEASANT

The Living Well Program offered through the Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging and the Prince George's County Community College will soon be available in Seat Pleasant. It is a program designed to help people living with chronic conditions. Chronic conditions are ongoing conditions that may cause suffering and loss of physical abilities over many years such as arthritis, asthma, depression, diabetes, glaucoma, heart disease, obesity, stroke, thyroid disease and others.

The program consists of a series of workshops that run for 2 ½ hours, once a week for six weeks preceded by a short introductory session. Two trained and experienced leaders, who live with chronic conditions, facilitate the workshop. Each session is confidential, supportive and builds on the previous one. The course teaches skills to manage symptoms and to get the most out of life. The workshops will be held at the Evelyn Cole Senior Center located at 5720 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland (at the corner of Addison Road and Martin Luther King Highway) and are scheduled to begin Monday, September 13th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The program was developed by Stanford University and modeled after the evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and is offered through the Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging and Prince George's County Community College. To register for the workshop contact Darlinda Sanders at Seat Pleasant City Hall at 301-336-2600.

CITIZEN'S FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)

Driving Amid Distractions

How many times have you driven down the street and have seen another driver texting like he's at home? My first thought was that he's a danger to everyone – especially me – and he should get off the road! Do you know that 28% of traffic accidents occur when people text or talk on cell phones while driving? At one time, the biggest distraction we had was having our music too loud. Now, we are texting, talking on cell phones, drinking alcohol, eating, putting on makeup, and the list goes on. These are things under our control; we can minimize them. The next time you get behind the wheel, remember that driving amid distractions can kill you or someone you love.

Drive safely!

IN CELEBRATION OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

By Jane Talbert

The Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Area Agency on Aging, teamed up with The Advisory Committee on Aging to sponsor a special event.

They presented, "The Older Americans Month Information Day, "Your Source for Aging and Care Giving Information," on May 20, from 9am to 3pm, at the Evelyn Cole Senior Center in Seat Pleasant.

Vendors included: Prince George's Community College Sage Program; Emergency Preparedness; Department of Transportation; senior employment; senior centers; care giving resources; MedStar; and other representatives.

Additional county and state representation included: the Assisted Living Subsidy Program; Police-TRIAD; Senior Health Insurance Program; the Fire Department/EMS; Register of Wills; Department of Housing and Community Development; Foster Grandparent Program; Health Department; Department of Environmental Resources; and others.

Seniors came by bus and car to participate in this event set aside just for them. Many arrived early and sat outside on the bright blue steel benches as they soaked in the beauty and warmth of the morning breeze. Almost 100-seniors had gathered and bore an air of excitement and anticipation.

The weather was picture-perfect as was the bright, colorful attire worn by many attendees as they stood proudly with broad smiles and offered warm hugs to new arrivals. Some chose to sit outside at designated tables adjacent to an area where a continental breakfast of Danish and beverages awaited them.

When the announcement came forth that the event was starting, seniors made their way to the registration desk. A special gift of a large, county-logo bag was given to each of the first 100-seniors who had pre-registered.

As participants worked their way around the vast auditorium to visit each vendor, the seniors were given information packets and an assortment of gifts, including: umbrellas, carry bags, pens, pads, hand sanitizers, and more. Several vendors asked seniors to sign up to receive additional information. For instance, representatives from The Office of Emergency Preparedness offered emergency reminder packets and asked seniors to sign up with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) as volunteer emergency workers in case of disaster. Several seniors signed up to do so.

As the noon hour approached, seniors held their free lunch tickets and waited in anticipation for their meal so that they could resume their afternoon session with the vendors. All in all, it was a day that will be remembered and treasured by many attendees. This was their day, with their peers, and they were treated in a special way...as honorees for the occasion.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR CHRISTMAS IN APRIL 2011

The Prince George's County Christmas in April Program is now accepting applications for 2011. Christmas in April is a volunteer organization that repairs the homes of senior citizens who are either low-income and/or physically disabled challenged, so they may live in warmth, safety, and independence. Christmas in April culminates in a one day repair effort on the last Saturday in April. Eligible homeowners must own their own homes and live in Prince George's County. Applications must be completed and received by November 1st to be considered. Each eligible applicant's home is inspected by the "House Selection Committee" and the homes selected are based on need and the ability of Christmas in April volunteers to accomplish the tasks in one day. All repairs are free for the homeowner. Labor and supplies are donated or purchased by the program. Applications are available at Seat Pleasant City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland or can be downloaded from the Christmas in April website at <http://www.christmasinaprilpg.org/homeapp/pdf> but must be sent to:

Christmas in April Prince George's County
7915 Malcolm Road
Clinton, Maryland 20735

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MOMENTS LIKE THESE

BY REVERAL YEARGIN

"Moments Like These"

We want to give a card, flowers, presents or money, because of the season this is a
special time of the year

There is no way you will show up empty handed, your family members or friends deserves more than just love

You have to reach deep down inside of your pocket, and bless them because they
have been a blessing

Parents give good gifts to their children and friends give gifts to their friends, but what
about your enemies

Every good and perfect gift comes from above, so thank God for showing us all how to
love

"Moments Like These"

Have you ever achieved something that you thought was impossible, those moments
make life worth living

With your mind you thought your way through four years of college, and today is your
graduation

You passed every test because you studied and prayed, things became easier when you
prepare yourself ahead of time

Will this workout in my favor, it will when you know how the laws of faith, belief and receiving actually work

If, life was easy nobody would ever complain, but when a person complains life could
get even harder

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #235

HAPPY FATHERS

DAY!

**FROM
THE MAYOR
AND
CITY COUNCIL
OF THE**

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

"A City of Excellence"

